

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-68 (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An altered human IGFBP-2 molecule able to bind IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity, which differs from a human IGFBP-2 molecule by one or more of the following substitutions or deletions:

(i) ~~wherein~~ the lysine ~~in~~ at ~~least~~ one or more of positions 180, 181, 227, 234 and 237 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule has been replaced with a neutral or acidic amino acid; and/or

(ii) amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

70. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein ~~said~~ the lysine at one or more of positions 180, 181, 227, 234 and 237 has been replaced with alanine.

71. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein ~~said~~ the lysine at position 180 has been replaced with alanine.

72. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein ~~said~~ the lysine at position 181 has been replaced with alanine.

73. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein ~~said~~ the lysines at positions 180 and 181 have been replaced with alanines.

74. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 73, wherein amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

75. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein ~~said~~ the lysine at position 234 has been replaced with alanine.

76. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 75, wherein amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

77. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein ~~said~~ the lysines at positions 180, 181 and 234 have been replaced with alanines.

78. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 77, wherein amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

79. (Currently Amended) The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule of claim 69, wherein amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

80. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The altered human IGFBP-2 molecule ~~able to bind IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity, wherein~~ of claim 69, which differs from a human IGFBP-2 molecule by the following substitutions and deletions:

(i) the lysine at one or more of positions 180, 181, 227, 234 and 237 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule has been replaced with a neutral or acidic amino acid; and

(ii) amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

Claims 81-96 (Canceled)

97. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a an altered human IGFBP-2 molecule able to bind IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity, which differs from a human IGFBP-2 molecule by one or more of the following substitutions or deletions:

(i) ~~wherein~~ the lysine ~~in~~ at least one or more of positions 180, 181, 227, 234 and 237 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule has been replaced with a neutral or acidic amino acid; and/or

(ii) amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

98. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysine at one or more of positions 180, 181, 227, 234 and 237 has been replaced with alanine.

99. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysine at position 180 has been replaced with alanine.

100. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysine at position 181 has been replaced with alanine.

101. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysines at positions 180 and 181 have been replaced with alanines.

102. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysines at positions 180 and 181 have been replaced with alanines and amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

103. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysine at position 234 has been replaced with alanine.

104. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysine at position 234 has been replaced with alanine and amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

105. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysines at positions 180, 181 and 234 have been replaced with alanines.

106. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, wherein the lysines at positions 180, 181 and 234 have been replaced with alanines and amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

107. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~encoding a human IGFBP-2 molecule able to bind IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity of claim 97~~, wherein amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.

108. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 97, encoding an altered human IGFBP-2 molecule able to bind IGF-I or IGF-II with high affinity, which differs from a human IGFBP-2 molecule by the following substitutions and deletions:

- (i) the lysine at one or more of positions 180, 181, 227, 234 and 237 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule has been replaced with a neutral or acidic amino acid; and
- (ii) amino acids 114-170 of the human IGFBP-2 molecule have been deleted.